

**ABSTRACT**

A method of assembling an expandable absorbent garment includes providing an absorbent composite having a length, opposite ends and opposite side regions. The absorbent composite includes a backsheet, a topsheet and a retention portion disposed between the backsheet and topsheet. The backsheet includes at least one fold formed along at least one of the opposite side regions, wherein the absorbent composite is laterally expandable at least at the opposite ends thereof. The at least one fold of the backsheet is unfoldable along at least the opposite ends of the absorbent composite. The method further includes providing a pair of front body panels having lateral inboard and outboard edges, providing a pair of rear body panels having lateral inboard and outboard edges, securing the said inboard edges of the front body panels to the opposite side regions of the absorbent garment at one of the ends of the absorbent composite, and securing the inboard edges of the rear body panels to the opposite side regions of the absorbent garment at the other of the ends of the absorbent composite.